

## News Release

## OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release Aug. 29, 2016

Contact: Hayley Thrift Bledsoe

(803) 734-3670 hthrift@scag.gov

## Cayce Man Sentenced to 15 Years on Child Pornography Charges

(**COLUMBIA**, **SC**) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson today announced that Fritz Edward Neiger, 66, pleaded guilty on Aug. 25, 2016, to five counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 2nd Degree, and five counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 3rd Degree, in front of Judge Keesley in Lexington County.

Between July 2014 to July 2015, Neiger uploaded more than 900 files of child pornography to the website Imgur.

Investigators with the Attorney General's Office received Cybertip reports of these files being uploaded from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, evidence from North Carolina and Delaware that the defendant had posted links to child pornography on Internet chat rooms, and evidence from investigators with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office that this defendant had sent a file of child pornography via a file sharing network.

A search warrant was executed at the defendant's residence on July 23, 2015, where the defendant admitted to the crimes.

Forensic Examiners with the Attorney General's Office examined the computer equipment seized from the defendant and found 1,619,742 sexually images of children and 11,404 sexually explicit videos of children. Several search terms related to child pornography were found on the computer, along with evidence the defendant had been sharing these files for a 12 year period, and had sent child pornography files thousands of times through file sharing.

The defendant was sentenced to a total of 15 years. The defendant consented to the forfeiture of his seized computer items, and will have to register as a sex offender upon his release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Kyle Senn.